Contracts concluded by the Ministry of Defence stipulate a clause on non-involvement of agents specifying that in case at a later date agents are found to be involved in a contract, the contract will be liable for termination along with refund of payments made under the contract with interest and blacklisting of the company for a minimum period of five years. The amount paid as commission to the agent will also have to be refunded. The Government has recently requested the Central Vigilance Commission to thoroughly investigate the alleged irregularities in all major defence procurement decision since the involvement of agents in the procurement of weapons and weapon system was banned by the Government in 1989.

Satellites for defence purposes

2149. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists any satellites for defence purpose;

(b) if so, whether the satellites were not being utilised to detect Pakistani terrorists infiltration at Kargil and other areas;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether robots with full electronic devices can be used in inaccessible areas in high altitudes for security purposes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) There is no dedicated Satellite for defence purpose. However, whenever there is a requirement, data from civil satellites are used for defence purposes.

(d) Robots with full electronic devices can not be used in inaccessible areas in high altitude because of terrain contraints and prevailing technology limitation.

Legislation for terrorist related crime

2150. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the recent hijacking of Indian Airlines plane Government are thinking of a suitable legislation which would provide for severe punishment for terrorist related crimes, including offences connected with hijacking of aircrafts and also aiming at combating international terrorism;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and